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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

MO-220-67

TO : Director, Domestic Contact Service
Att'n : Operational Support Staff (Mesulin)

DATE: 31 May 1967

FROM : Chief, New Orleans Office

SUBJECT: Case 49364 - Garrison's Investigation

I enclose herewith for your information copy of recorded conversation which I had with a reporter from Station WYUE-TV, Channel 12, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Lloyd A. Ray
LLOYD A. RAY

LARay/gn

Encl.

SECRET

Garrison Investigation

Operational Support Staff, DCS
George S. Musulin:yj
900 Key Bldg.

DCS Case 49,364

2268

5 June 1967

Office of General Counsel
ATTN: Mr. Greaney
Room 7 D 07, Hqs.

Enclosed herewith for your information is copy of recorded conversation which Mr. Ray, Chief, New Orleans office, had with a reporter from Station WVUE-TV, Channel 12, New Orleans, La., on 31 May 1967.

Copy also forwarded to Mr. Goodwin, ADDI.

Attachment: NO-220-67

SECRET

Telephone conversation between Mr. Ray and Mr. Sam De Pino, WYUE-Channel 12, 31 May 1967

DeP: Mr. Ray?

R: Yes

DeP: I don't know what this man's motives are, but he wants to be contacted by someone in the Federal Government. His name is Vernon Gerdes, Vernon G. Gerdes.

R: Well, why do you call me, Mr. De Pino?

DeP: Because he said he would like to be contacted by the CIA.

R: You said someone in the United States Government.

DeP: Yes, someone in an investigative capacity with the US Government, so I told him all right, I don't know what I can do but I will call the FBI, I will call the CIA and the Secret Service and tell them that you are interested in being talked to, and that's as far as it will go with me. Now, this man knew Guy Bannister and he feels that if there is anything anybody wants to know about Guy Bannister, and I don't know whether it's a trick or not, Mr. Ray, you know, I'm serious, all I know is the guy - to what he told me and I was talking with him to try to find out what I can that's going on here, because it seems that Jim Garrison's investigation is pointing directly to the Bannister office.

R: Well, of course, I'm not even remotely interested in ....

DeP: Well, let me assure you, Mr. Ray, I'm not looking for a story right now - I'm just passing a message along. As a reporter I'm not going along with the - what it seems like, some of the national press trying to make the CIA a whipping boy or anything else. I'm not interested in that because I feel that the job you are doing is extremely important to this nation's security and I couldn't care less about people that blast the CIA.

R: What's this man's name?

DeP: Vernon G. Gerdes. He's a special investigator. He says he was a confidant of Bannister. His telephone number is TW-5 6515.

R: Well, I'm not going to call him. I appreciate your calling me but frankly I couldn't be less interested in this and I just can't comment ..

DeP: Well, I understand that, Mr. Ray.

R: ..on it and ..

DeP: I didn't expect you to even say you weren't or were and I wouldn't be surprised if you didn't contact him because I should imagine if you did, it would indicate an interest which - you know how people reach conclusions.

SECRET

R: That's right.

DeP: So - I know your situation - I know the position of the CIA, and that is mum, and nothing will be said and in a way I'm glad I'm not a member because for the simple reason - the CIA is just making a beautiful whipping boy. Nobody expects you to say anything back and if somebody says - if somebody comes out and publicly says I am a CIA agent, if I were, you wouldn't say anything, if I was, you wouldn't say, if I was not, you wouldn't say anything, and as a result, all they do is gain the public - plant the seed in the public's mind that such and so was such and so and, believe me, I haven't reached any conclusion that Novel was even if he'd say he is, or was, so I think I know what's happening in this thing.

R: Well, I thank you for calling me. It's Penedo?

DeP: De Pino, I work with Channel 12 news.

R: I see. Well, I thank you very much, Mr. De Pino. I appreciate your calling.

DeP: OK.

R: Thank you, sir.

DeP: Look.

R: Yes?

DeP: When .... well, I was going to ask you when can we get a story out of you on anything besides this?

R: Well, I'm afraid never. Someone else called me once -- the only thing I can do is refer you to Washington. If you're interested in anything like that

DeP: And they'll say "no comment."

R: I can't even say that, hardly.

DeP: Well, I understand that. Pass my thanks over to the man in the employment department for having sent me this brochure.

R: Well, that's a different department....

DeP: It's the one that he sends to all the colleges. What is his name? I'll call him.

R: Mr. Gause - William Gause.

DeP: I knew it was something like that. I don't guess you'd send me a dub of this tape you just made.

R: Send you what?

DeP: A dub of this tape you just made of this conversation.

R: Yeah. No, I don't have any.

DeP: I wish I had a tape recorder on myself all the time, then I'd know what I said day before yesterday.

NOTE: The reference to William Gause occurred before I began to record the conversation. De Pino asked if I was the one he had talked to previously and who had sent him the brochure when he was trying to find out if CIA was in McLean, Virginia. I assured him I had not spoken to him before. The mention of the brochure made me believe he had spoken to Mr. William Gause, the Recruiter whose office is in the Federal Building on South Street.

LLOYD A. RAY

LAR/gn

James F. Quaid, Jr.
Attorney at Law
1015 deMontluzin Building
234 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Dear Mr. Quaid:

This is in reply to your letter of May 15th, 1967, addressed to the Director of this Agency in which you asked that your name be placed on the Central Intelligence Agency referral list of qualified attorneys in the New Orleans area.

We appreciate your offer; however, I wish to advise you that this Agency does not maintain a referral list of qualified attorneys.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

cc: CI/R&A w/att. (Mr. Rocca)
DCS w/att. (Mr. McConnell)

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